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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01637 151045Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------128402 151051Z /15
P R 151000Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDCMPRIORITY 3786
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 1637

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, TC, MU
SUBJECT: OMAN'S DISPUTE WITH RAS AL KHAIMAH

REF MUSCAT 1614

1. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR TOLD US NOV 15 HE HAS REPORT THAT OMAN-UAE DISPUTE IS OF SERIOUS PROPORTIONS AND THAT MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP LA SALLE IS "STANDING BY" NEAR THE OFFSHORE OIL RIG TO WHICH OMAN OBJECTS.SHE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS RIG BELONGS TO AN AMERICAN COMPANY AND IS FLYING AN AMERICAN FLAG. ALSO SAID ONE OR MORE OMANI PATROL BOATS HAVE SUDDENLY BEEN ISSUED FULL STOCKS OF AMMO TO BE READY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

2. WE TRIED TO CALM HIM DOWN, STATING WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE MIDEASTFOR UNITS HAD ALTERED THIER SCHEDULES IN ANY WAY BECAUSE OF THIS SUDDENLY ACTIVE ARGUMENT ABOUT THE MUSANDAM-RAS AL KHAIMAH REGION, AND SAYING WE BELIEVED THAT RECENT INTERCESSION BY SAUDIS AND PERHAPS OTHERS HAD RESULTED IN OMANI-UAE AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL BY EARLY DECEMBER.

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3. COMMENT: AS PAK AMBASSADOR RETURNED ONLY YESTERDAY FROM 2 MONTH ABSENCE, WE WOULD TEND DISCOUNT HIS REMARKS ALMOST COMPLETELY BUT FOR ONE FACT: HIS INFORMATION ON THIS COMES MAINLY FROM NAVAL OFFICERS OF PAKISTAN NATIONALITY WHO SERVE IN PROMINENT CAPACITY ABOARD OMANI NAVAL PATROL VESSELS. (IRONICALLY, THE SAME IS TRUE, HE SAYS, ON UAE PATROL CRAFT.)

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4. SUGGEST DEPT CHECK WITH DOD AND ADVISE WHETHER THERE IS ANY-
THING TO THIS SOURCE'S COMMENTS ABOUT MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP. ALSO,
DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS THIS SUBJECT AS TIME PROCEEDS, DEPT MAY
WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER BILATERAL PASSEX BETWEEN USS MANLEY
OR USS JULIUS A. FURER AND UAE DEFENSE FORCE UNITS SHOULD
PROCEED DEC 12 AS SCHEDULED, INASMUCH AS OMAN AND UAE MINISTERS
MIGHT BE MEETING JUST AT THAT TIME TO THRASH OUTTHIS DISPUTE.
(REF: JCS WASHDC MSG DTG 270145Z OCT 77 TO USCINCEUR, NOTAL.)

5. MANAMA MAY WANT TO BRIEF MIDEASTFOR ON CONTENTS THIS AND
PREVIOUS MSGS.
WOLLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: SECRET
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 MUSCAT 1614
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 585302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMAN\'S DISPUTE WITH RAS AL KHAIMAH
TAGS: PBOR, TC, MU
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